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Recall Reported Of CIA Chief In Viet-Nam

Associated Press

John B. Richardson, chief of the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency operation in South Viet-Nam, is being recalled to Washington. It was reported last night.

The stated purpose is that he is wanted for consultation, but qualified officials said it was unlikely that he would return to Viet-Nam.

Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge is reported on good authority to have requested Richardson's replacement. Lodge is also reported to be considering various personnel changes in the U. S. staff in South Viet-Nam.

Richardson has been one of the key men in development of the U. S. role of helping the Diem government fight Communist guerrillas.

There have been persistent reports of differences between Lodge and the CIA staff, as well as differences within the CIA group and other agencies operating under Lodge's general direction.

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Mr. Lodge is said to be concerned that the anti-Buddhist policies of the Diem government is damaging the war effort.

The recall of Mr. Richardson "for consultations" followed some demands in Congress for an investigation of the CIA role in Saigon.

A number of members of Congress may hear first hand next week what some American embassy officials have been complaining about privately to newsmen in Saigon. A group of congressmen plan to stop in Saigon as part of a trip to the Far East.

As usual, the CIA here declined comment of the Richardson development. (UPI)

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